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Senator Hints Jackson Leaked Secret

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Sen. Stuart Symington has implied that classified information was divulged by Sen. Henry M. Jackson when Jackson said this week that the Soviet Union is preparing new offensive missiles bigger than any in the past.

The Nixon administration has given no sign of being upset about the "leak," but Symington is.

He suggested yesterday that administration officials planned the leak.

Jackson, a Washington Democrat, insists that "nothing I said violates any rules of secrecy." He would not say where he got his information. He explained simply, "I try to keep myself informed."

Other sources said that the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Richard C. Helms, briefed members of the Armed Services Committee about the detected missile sites at a secret session last Thursday.

Jackson was not present at that session, but since he is a senior and influential member of the committee, and one who maintains a close relationship with Helms, the information could have been made available to him.

Jackson appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday and told a national audience the Russians are deploying a new generation of missiles larger than their huge SS-9s.

The Pentagon quickly confirmed that some new construction of Soviet intercontinental ballistic missile sites has been detected.

And United Press International reported that President Nixon

mentioned the development the same day when he initiated a telephone interview with White House Correspondent Helen Thomas.

On Tuesday, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird told Congress publicly that the Soviets had slowed the pace of their missile building, but he speculated that an explanation "may be that the Soviets are preparing to deploy new ICBM systems."

Symington, a Missouri Democrat, raised the leak issue yesterday in a brief speech on the Senate floor. Referring to the Helms briefing, he said that Soviet missile plans were discussed with the Armed Services Committee "last week in a session secret to the point that no record was kept."

He said that briefing "included for the first time purported details of new Soviet missileery which was not known about when the Joint Atomic Energy Committee was briefed the previous week on the same subject by the same people."

Symington said he was upset about two points.

First, he said, he doesn't accept the conclusion that there's a new threat involved. He implied that any leak might have

been designed to buttress arguments for the pending defense budget.

"One cannot fail to remember," Symington said yesterday, "several comparable spring announcements of previous years—in the early 1950s those thousands of new long-range bombers the Soviets were going to build, but never built; in the late 1950s those hundreds upon hundreds of long-range missiles the Soviets were going to build but never built."

Secondly, he says he thinks the administration "is playing the game they accuse us of playing." He is chairman of a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee investigating U.S. foreign policy commitments. That panel—which often has clashed with the administration—has been accused in the past of leaking classified information supplied by the administration. On those past occasions, however, the issue generally has involved information not regarded as favorable to administration views.

Last month an administration official, John Lehman Jr. of Henry Kissinger's White House staff, was quoted as telling a group of Senate staffers that Sy-

mington's subcommittee staff had leaked information to the press after secret hearings.

The staff members denied it. No specific leaks were enumerated by Lehman, who refused to appear before the Foreign Relations Committee to document his charge.

Symington is still upset about Lehman's charge. He told a television reporter yesterday, "That so-and-so downtown accusing us of leaking stuff. They're the leaders."